

VZCZCXRO9372  
RR RUEHROV RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHNR #0374/01 0530919  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 220914Z FEB 10  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0911  
INFO SOMALIA COLLECTIVE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEILB/NCTC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEPADJ/CJTF-HOA J2X CAMP LEMONIER DJ

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 14 NAIROBI 000374

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SO](#) [KWMN](#) [KPAO](#) [PHUM](#)  
SUBJECT: SOMALIA - S/GWI Project Proposals

REF: STATE 12531; 09 STATE 132094; FEB 19 DAVIS BA - BIGIO EMAIL

¶1. Post appreciates the opportunity to submit five proposals from women's organizations in Somalia's South-Central, Somaliland, and Puntland regions to the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues. In response to a call for proposals, post received over 85 submissions from non-governmental organizations across Somalia in all of the thematic areas listed in reftel a and b. All of the proposals we selected are for activities in locations where there is relative calm, not controlled by violent extremist groups, and where it will be possible to conduct monitoring and evaluation. We gained input from our implementing partners on the capacity and financial management control standards of all the organizations that submitted proposals. We have only included proposals from those organizations that meet basic U.S. government standards. This cable outlines the most outstanding projects, in rank order, from each of the three regions, which emerged after deliberations by a technical committee composed of State and USAID officers.

¶2. The U.S. Government does not have a permanent diplomatic presence in Somalia, but we have developed innovative ways to carry out project monitoring and evaluation. Working through our local partners, we have been able to effectively monitor small grants we have awarded using public diplomacy program funds. These small grants have had major impact by allowing us to partner directly with Somali organizations to work within their communities to raise public awareness, initiate economic development projects, and engage youth in sports, drama, and other activities. We intend to use a similar method to ensure transparency in the management of grants awarded through S/GWI. In all three regions of Somalia there are women's umbrella organizations: Coalition for Grassroots Women's Organizations (COGWO) in South-Central Region, We Are Women Activists (WAWA) in Puntland, and Nagaad (a Somali word meaning after hardship and difficulties, we have come to rest in peace) Women Umbrella Organization in Somaliland who are willing to advise the recipient organization and work with us to monitor and evaluate their projects, at no additional cost.

¶3. All of the projects proposed in this cable would be managed by the Somalia Affairs Unit. Each of these projects fills a need in the regions and sectors they target. The submissions are focused on providing economic opportunities for women and empowering women's participation in Somalia's democratic and political development. With new opportunities to earn income and make their voices heard, Somali women beneficiaries would advance their political, economic and social rights. Empowered at the community, regional, and national level, these women will become more equal partners in creating the conditions necessary for improved security - the highest priority for U.S. policy in Somalia. There are no

current U.S. funded projects that support women to achieve these goals and women are rarely the direct beneficiaries of non-food U.S. government assistance in Somalia. A grant from S/GWI would enable us to work directly with the dynamic women who have been the lifeline of Somalia through two decades of conflict.

#### Microcredit for Victims of Terrorist Attack

-----

¶4. The following project is our number one ranked submission.

-- Project title: Waberi Women Bomb Blast Survivors Support Program

NAIROBI 00000374 002 OF 014

-- Region: Mogadishu

-- Problem to be addressed: Lack of income generating activities, vocational training, and start-up capital for victims of conflict in Mogadishu. With few economic opportunities in Somalia's capital, food-for-work programs offered women small incomes and food in exchange for public works projects. On August 3, 2008, a group of women street cleaners took a break and gathered for tea. A remote-controlled roadside bomb exploded and seventeen women and two men (who were filling in their wives) were killed immediately. There were 37 survivors, many with significant injuries. Today, the survivors continue to suffer physically, psychologically and economically. The trauma of the attack has left many of the survivors handicapped and children of those who perished are now orphans. The women want to start over, yet they are still without economic opportunities, remain marginalized and lack the support to enable them to sustain alternative livelihoods. The proposed beneficiaries have received no direct assistance since becoming victims of this terrorist attack.

-- Summary of proposed program: This proposal targets a small group of vulnerable women who were victims of a targeted terrorist attack in Mogadishu. The project will provide counseling for the victims while providing them with skills to sustain alternative livelihoods, initiate vocational training and provide the survivors with capital to start their own businesses. By focusing on a small group of women and their families, this project can become a successful model for training and microcredit that can eventually be extended to the multitude of victims of terrorist attacks in Mogadishu.

-- Project description: For a period of 18 months this project will target 37 women survivors of the Waberi bomb explosion and their families and 90 orphaned children of women who were killed. Most of the beneficiaries live as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Waberi district of Mogadishu. Key project objectives are to offer counseling to 37 survivors, initiate a literacy and business skills training program, provide start-up capital for the women to start their own businesses. It will provide the orphans with school uniforms, learning materials, and school fees, while provide victim's families with cash incentives to enable the women to complete the training program and bring their businesses to profitability. With a holistic approach supporting the network of victims and their families, who all still live in the same community, the project will strengthen the support structures to enable the beneficiaries to gain self-sustaining livelihoods.

The specific project activities would begin with psycho-social counseling to help the survivors work through the trauma of the attack. Dr. Maryam Awes, a qualified Mogadishu-based counselor will lead the counseling sessions which will run concurrently with literacy and entrepreneurial training. The training will equip beneficiaries with basic arithmetic and business skills to enable them to effectively manage their own businesses. For all the proposed training, qualified and experienced trainers in the various training fields will prepare manuals that will be provided to all beneficiaries. The women will learn basic concepts of good business management, simple book-keeping, and diversifying their small businesses. They will also be taught cooperative trading such as purchasing goods in bulk and then sharing the profits.

The vocational training will be concentrated in areas that the beneficiaries can immediately use and that will enable them to easily earn income thereafter. The beneficiaries will be guided in their selection of their activities but will have the option to learn traditional weaving, basket making, and cloth weaving to make mats, baskets, clothes and other items used daily in the markets where they will sell their goods. They will also have the opportunity to learn tie dye techniques, tailoring, shop-keeping, grocery, and butchering skills.

NAIROBI 00000374 003 OF 014

Considering that the 37 target beneficiaries and their families are extremely poor and currently have no sustainable income, the project will provide them with monthly cash incentives to enable them to complete their training. The stipends will cover their transport, sustain their families, and motivate them. After completing their training, the beneficiaries will be encouraged to utilize the skills they learned to earn sustainable incomes. To this end, they will be provided with grants to have start-up capital to launch their small businesses, based on their vocational skills training.

In order to ensure that the 90 orphans of the women killed in the attack also receive immediate benefits, the project will provide school sponsorship, uniforms, and learning materials. These orphans will also be offered counseling and will have the opportunity to participate in selected training sessions offered to the women. The project will also prepare the children for entrepreneurship opportunities in their future.

-- The budget for this project is \$99,730 over 18 months. Detailed budget figures are available for additional review.

-- Recipient organization: Women Education and Voicing Entrepreneurship (WEAVE) was founded in 2008 and works towards building the capacity of Somalia's women and vulnerable groups, especially children. WEAVE is headquartered in Mogadishu and the organization's founder, Asli Duale, has a wealth of experience in education and health sectors and has worked with a range of our international partners in South Central Somalia. In 2009, the organization managed a baseline survey to identify the needs of Somali Women within Mogadishu. The organization and its founder are well known to the Somalia Unit and has demonstrated the technical and management capacity to implement this project.

-----  
-----  
15. The following project is our second ranked submission.

-- Project title: Promotion and Establishment of Micro-enterprises for Women

-- Region: Borama, Lugaya, Saylac and Baki districts in Awdal Region, Somaliland

-- Problem to be addressed: In Somaliland, rural communities rely on subsistence agriculture and livestock production as their principal source of livelihood. This sector is important for rural women even though it is vulnerable to low productivity, inadequate market facilities and irregular income. In urban areas, women engage in small scale micro enterprise activities for a few basic commodities such as livestock, milk, meat, grain staples, fruits/vegetables and other locally made handicrafts. The women petty traders manage their small scale business and have control over their resources but they lack training, expertise and relevant skills and knowledge to properly run and manage their businesses.

NAIROBI 00000374 004 OF 014

Due to relative peace in Awdal region, large number of Awdalian refugees in refugee camps in eastern Ethiopia, are returning to Somaliland. Having adapted the refugee camp lifestyle, returnee women in general and female-headed household families in particular live in environments not conducive to entrepreneurship. A micro-credit project would enable these women to access small loans and begin their own businesses. This project is intended to help 200 women in Borama, Lugaya, Saylac and Baki districts improve their small businesses, increase income and promote family livelihoods.

-- Summary of proposed program: This project would target 200 women in four districts of Somaliland to help them increase their income through the provision of micro-credit loans. The 200 women beneficiaries will be organized in 40 cells of five women per cell. Project activities include training in business skills and access to loan credit. The objectives are to improve family livelihoods by empowering women to become entrepreneurs. Another key objective is to expand the skills of cell leaders to manage the credit program for its members.

-- Project description: The project beneficiaries are 200 women. Eligible borrowers will be returnees or IDPs in the Borama, Lugaya, Saylac and Baki districts aged between 20-60 years. The women must have a guarantor at individual and cell levels for repayment of the loan and saving. She must engage in legal business within the target area and willing to accept mandatory saving and a cell (group) approach system. She must be honest and have a solid reputation in the community.

Women beneficiaries will be organized into cells of 5 persons. Cells in a particular community can form a company which will have access to higher levels of financing. This strategy creates a culture of mutual group cooperation in which the women can assist each other at all levels.

Security for loans - Established through a cell guarantee system through co-guarantor among cell members (to pay defaulter assets) i.e. a peer group approach system. There must be an external guarantor for every cell member in which the savings of each member and her other cell member can be tapped to cover the outstanding loan of the defaulter.

Loan maturity - In general, loans will be classified as short term, with a maturity period of six months.

Loan ceiling - The amount of loan that a cell may be entitled to borrow will depend on the total membership of the cell. Loans extended to the cell shall be in the form of group loans for individual projects. In our case, 40 cells of 5 members each are identified in 20 target locations in Borama, Lugaya, Saylac and Baki districts. Every member of the cell group will receive a start up loan of USD 110.00.

Service charges - The purpose of service charge is to increase the amount of cash in the fund. It is the only way that the revolving fund can increase its capitalization funds to be able to give out more money to new beneficiaries. It is not possible to run a credit program without administrative fee. Therefore, the women borrower must pay service charge. Service charge will be charged at flat rate of 10% of the amount received and duration of repayment of the loan will be four months. Service charges will cover administration and training costs.

NAIROBI 00000374 005 OF 014

New members will benefit from the money repaid by existing cell members. The program will give examples of how to calculate service charges using different assumptions. Service charges are intended to cover program costs and is payable at the time of loan disbursement.

Savings - The project will inculcate the value of savings for productive purposes. Saving will be in the form of capital building-up fund. This encourages borrowers to save for increasing initial capital.

Loan management committee - The project administrator will nominate a management committee with the required expertise and technical competency for the efficient implementation of the project and shall comprise of a project manager, loan officer, field extension officer, project accountant, and a community leader and/or local authority.

Loan repayment - A systematic collection process of loan repayment by the cell leader and the company treasurer will ease the collection work for the loan officer by adopting a process to make each borrower and cell responsible or both loan repayment and savings.

Loan processing and disbursement - The project will establish specific guidelines to assess prospective applicants. This will ensure quality service, a positive impact on the program. All prospective applicants will receive orientation, training, and information about the loan program and must have an endorsement letter to be considered. A specific disbursement procedure will also be endorsed by each cell.

Training program - The business skill training and loan management will be offered to all participants and topics will address specifically in training sessions including: group organization and dynamics, income generating ideas, accountability and cash control, planning, costing and pricing, book keeping and records, credit management/service charge /saving, loan monitoring and evaluation. The training will also include marketing, feasibility, and credit management. The training is divided into two parts: training of the cell leaders (loan committee) and training for the whole group. Under the guidance of the project, the credit officer and trainer will plan and organize at least four week training sessions depending on the needs and skill level of the selected group. The training will be conducted once per week in each group's village or in a community building such as school or a maternal child health care center. This will consist of five training sessions for each of the target locations.

After the training sessions, appropriate tests will be administered and participatory methods will be used to ensure that information is being disseminated effectively and all participants understand the concept further training will be provided as necessary during the loan monitoring and follow up activities. The project manager, with the other members of the loan committee, will prepare monthly quarterly and final project reports. The project administrator will conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

-- Budget: A total of USD 88,685 is requested to support this project over a period of 12 months. Detailed budget figures are available for additional review.

-- Recipient Organization: The Somaliland Humanitarian Relief Organization (SOHURA) has implemented many projects on agriculture,

NAIROBI 00000374 006 OF 014

environment education, health, livestock, human right, and credit. SOHURA is currently implementing a project to promote advocacy for law and policy on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in Awdal region. The project includes research, mapping stakeholders/resources, workshop planning, and drafting a policy proposal on SGBV and disability law/policies, funded by Oxfam Novib. SOHURA also implemented a loan revolving fund project financed by Somali Protection Foundation. This micro credit project was implemented in Habaas, Tulli and Osoli villages of Awdal region.

Encouraging Political Participation in Puntland

-----

¶6. The following project is our third ranked submission.

-- Project title: Democracy and Political Empowerment for Puntland Women

-- Region: All five regions of Puntland

-- Problem to be addressed: There is an underrepresentation of

women in all of Puntland's political and public institutions. Puntland's first charter, ratified and implemented in 1998, specified seats for five women in the 66 seat parliament. The first parliament met this requirement. Over time, however, the female parliamentarians were gradually removed from the seats by substituting them with men representing their regions. At present there are only two female parliamentarians, from the Mudug and Sanaag regions, who serve in the house of legislators.

In the 2004-2005 presidential elections, Puntland had its first woman candidate. Though she withdrew her candidacy in the final stage, she was chosen to become the first Minister for Women Development and Family affairs. While parliament became less representative, the number of women in the council of ministers increased from zero to four (one minister and three deputy ministers). Women have also become more visible in the current political environment.

Puntland introduced its decentralization program in 2005 and 20 district councils were successfully formed. While the number of the councilors ranged from 25 to 45 in each district, women's representation on these councils was less than 5%. Less than 10 percent of Puntland's civil service are women, leading to a severe paucity of employment opportunities for women. At the same time, the number of female headed households is drastically increasing. There is a critical need to push for increased women's representation in all of Puntland's public institutions.

-- Summary of the proposed program: This project will empower women to advocate for increasing the number of women representatives in the parliament, council of ministers, district councils, and Puntland's civil service. By training women in advocacy techniques and concerted lobbying of Puntland's elected and traditional leaders, the project will encourage increased women's participation in political decision-making and equal opportunity for employment in governmental jobs.

NAIROBI 00000374 007 OF 014

-- Project description: This project will empower women to participate in political decision making processes. Through civic education, women will be encouraged to make their voices heard in Puntland's democratization program. The project will help women prepare for the next phase of presidential elections in 2013. Women will be trained and organized to lobby the top traditional leaders and other concerned stakeholders to re-install women in the five parliamentarian seats reserved for them. The project will also encourage increased representation by women in all of Puntland's public institutions. The outcome of this project will be enhanced women's status of political, economic and social, which will contribute to the lasting peace, economic recovery and consolidation of social stability in Puntland.

To empowering women's political participation, the project will engage traditional elders and key stakeholders, such as the prominent business persons, youth groups and other key professional organizations to ensure equitable representation in the political arena. A comprehensive public diplomacy campaign will influence key stakeholders. The Nagal Women's Network will design, produce and stage a package of awareness raising activities encouraging women's political participation. Specific deliverables include slogans printed on t-shirts, stickers, banners, and billboards in the main areas of Garowe, the regional capital. The Network will launch a series of media programs, including televised debates, focusing on women's political participation and equal opportunity within government institutions.

Specific project outputs include:

- Three 2-day workshops to teach advocacy strategies to 120 women participants
- Development of slogans to be printed on 1000 shirts, at least 5000 stickers and 2000 banners which will be distributed across Garowe and other major towns in Puntland
- Produce at least 24 radio and TV programs and debates which will be broadcast on Radio Garowe, Daljir FM, and ETN TV
- Direct collaboration with the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs

-- Budget: The total project cost over a period of six months is USD 48,850. Detailed budget figures are available for additional review.

-- Recipient organization: Nugal Women's Network (NWN) was founded in January 2007, in Garowe, Puntland. The network unites 14 different women's organizations which all focus on improving women's socio-eco-political status in the Nugal region. NWN was formed to unify the scattered efforts of the various individual women entities which share common goal, to strengthen cooperation and create better joint actions to ease the attainment of the shared long-term goals. Nugal women network is an active member of the Puntland Non-state Actors Association (PUNSAA). NWN facilitates the exchange, production and provision of information among its members. It has created a space in Puntland's political landscape for member organizations to advocate for women. The Network implemented campaigns against the practice of female genital cutting in Garowe, reaching 300 women and girls. NWN participated the girls' education program with the Puntland Ministry of Education, and had a leading role in the 16 days activism to prevent violence against women.

#### Training Women for Secretarial Employment

-----  
NAIROBI 00000374 008 OF 014

17. The following project is our fourth ranked submission.

-- Project title: Secretarial Training for Somali Women

-- Region: Hargeisa, Somaliland

-- Problem to be addressed: The challenges that face Somali women and girls go beyond health, and often arise from a combination of poverty and illiteracy. Many women are educated, but are unskilled in areas for them to become gainfully employed. Women who are engaged in the workforce can often be found in the market selling vegetables and meat, or along the streets behind green kiosks selling the narcotic khat. Some will be found in stores and places of business even though they can hardly read or write. The professional arena is still dominated by men and therefore is biased towards offering jobs to men only. When girls cannot find employment in this already tight market, many marry early or go through unsuitable marriages purely for economic security. By offering job training, this project supports activities to increase the economic opportunities for women by targeting a group of



beneficiaries with adult literacy classes and secretarial training to make them immediately employable.

-- Summary of proposed program: This project will offer training and job opportunities for 60 women who have had formal schooling but who do not have skills to help them find jobs. This project will be Somaliland's first training of secretaries and office assistants. After this six month training course, the beneficiaries will have the knowledge and skills to become gainfully employed, achieve economic independence and have the means to support themselves and their families. It will enable women to become professional office managers who will also improve the poor standard of clerical work that currently characterizes Somalia.

-- Project description: This initiative will take 60 women, who have passed the entrance examination and who demonstrate drive and determination, to pioneer professional and efficient secretarial and clerical training in Somaliland. The students will also be taught about their rights in the workplace, and how to get the best treatment during working hours. The training will be conducted over a period of six months in a classroom setting. It will include internship placements in the offices of the UN and International NGOs where the beneficiaries will gain good experience in the real working environment. A syllabus will be developed and provided to the students and each new skill will be tested.

By training them as secretaries, women from economically challenged households will learn a useful skill and gain a means to a livelihood. This project will empower women, hone leadership skills, and provide a forum to discuss important human rights issues. This is the arena to foster tomorrow's leaders, preparing them for professional jobs that are better paid and offer better working conditions. Women have difficulty competing for these jobs because they do not have the necessary skills. This project aims to give women a chance at better jobs by teaching them secretarial skills.

This initial investment will equip and start up a secretarial training department that will be able to sustain itself thereafter by charging a small fee to students. This fee will be used to pay rent, utilities and instructors' salary. In Somaliland there are many small private institutions that profess to teach subjects

NAIROBI 00000374 009 OF 014

ranging from nursing to English and computer skills. The quality of most of these institutions is very poor, but they are nevertheless crowded. They charge fees ranging from \$10-\$200 a month. People readily pay for these courses despite the poor quality of the training being offered. There is a strong demand for skills training and this project will provide quality training for women who otherwise could not afford the standard training fees.

For this 6 month pilot project we propose not to charge any fees. At the conclusion of the project, Edna Adan Hospital will determine an affordable fee structure at the conclusion of this 6 month pilot course, after gaining an accurate picture of expenses. This reasoning comes from a need draw women to this new training and to encourage women who may shy away from enrolling due to financial constraints. The project will offer an allowance of \$30/month for each student, to cover travel expenses.

After this initial project investment, the recipient organization will be able to continuously produce female secretaries who are

well trained and highly sought after in the market. This opportunity will ensure employment for them and income for their families, confirming the sustainability of the project.

Participant selection criteria - Project beneficiaries must be female, 18 years or older, hold a

high school diploma, successfully pass the entrance interview, successfully pass the written entrance examination in the areas of math and English, have basic computer skills, and demonstrate evidence of drive and determination.

The project will be conducted over a 6 month period. One group of 30 students will attend in the mornings, and the other group of 30 will attend in the afternoon, for a total of 60 students.

The women will participate in several modules which include training in the following areas:

- Computer skills (typing and word processing, desktop publishing, and database management)
- Electronic and paper filing
- Telephone etiquette
- Correspondence
- Arranging meetings and appointments
- Making travel plans
- Preparing programs and schedules for planned activities
- Taking meeting minutes
- Photocopying, laminating, binding and other office tasks
- Coordinating office activities and staying on top of work in progress and developments
- Working with supervisors
- Dealing with emergencies

Outcome: 60 women with secretarial, clerical skills, and office management skills

NAIROBI 00000374 010 OF 014

- Building a resume
- Job hunting
- Preparing for a job interview
- Professional dress and manners

Outcome: Completed CV and two job interviews scheduled

- Rights in the workplace
- Dealing with harassment
- Equal pay for equal work

Outcome: Awareness about labor rights, including harassment issues

- Basic health and hygiene
- Child care and nutrition
- Prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases
- Abandoning female genital cutting
- First aid

Outcome: Improved knowledge about the issues that concern the health of women and children

- English language skills throughout the secretarial course

Outcome: Improved oral and written English

In each of these training areas, learning will be measured with written tests, role playing, and presentations

-- Budget: The total budget for this six month project is \$42,295. Detailed budget figures are available for additional review.

-- Recipient Organization: Edna Adan University Hospital has been working tirelessly to tackle many of the challenges that face Somali women and which also affect their children. It has worked successfully with a range of partners and enjoys a stellar reputation in Somaliland and with international donors. The hospital has taken the lead in reducing the maternal mortality rate of Somali women by training qualified midwives, nurses, laboratory, and pharmacy technicians. It offers one of the best maternal and medical hospital services in Somalia, especially for emergency obstetric care and fistula repair. The founder was a minister in the Somaliland government and is one of Somalia's strongest civil society leaders and has implemented a wide range of projects to empower women. The hospital has extensive experience in carrying out long term and short term trainings for both women and men and takes a rigorous approach toward its educational activities.

Building a Women's Caucus in the Transitional Federal Parliament

-----  
-----  
NAIROBI 00000374 011 OF 014

18. The following project is our fifth ranked submission.

-- Project title: Increasing Women's Political Participation in Somalia

-- Region: Mogadishu

-- Problem to be addressed: Women's participation in Somali politics and public service is one of the lowest in the world. If

this situation persists, women's voices will continue to be unheard and many women will continue to be victimized in society, without equal opportunities and rights. The Somali Women Parliamentary Association (SOWPA) formed a women's caucus to address the low levels of women's political participation in the executive and legislative arms of government. In the past, many workshops were held on the issue of women's political participation, but very few involved Members of the Parliament. To increase the space to allow women to participate in Somalia's political processes, a multidimensional approach is necessary, which includes legislation that provides for affirmative action for women, constitutional provisions that guarantee women's rights, strategies for economic empowerment of women, and strengthening women's education.

Women are severely underrepresented in Somalia political and government institutions. Although the Transitional Federal Charter requires that a minimum of 12% of the members of Transitional Federal Parliament shall be women, there are only 37 women out of 550 members - about 6.7% of the legislative body. In the current cabinet of 45, only two positions are held by women. The lack of representation is equally poor in the civil service. These trends and negative patterns must be reversed.

Greater women's participation in politics and public institutions will help improve representation of women's views and play a positive role in the process of peace and reconciliation. Women in general are instinctively against war and conflicts; in Somalia they often have a multi-clan identity since they are born in one clan and may be married into another. Therefore, a lack of women in political and institutional life is causing missed opportunities to mitigate the conflict in Somalia.

-- Summary of proposed program: SOWPA will conduct a series of thematic workshops to empower women, within a period of nine months. Through these workshops SOWPA will reach out to different sectors of Somali society to identify barriers to women's political participation and develop strategies to tackle those barriers. SOWPA will launch an inclusive process to engage in dialogue with civil society organizations, academics, religious leaders, business owners, government officials, and media representatives to support Somali women's participation.

SOWPA members will be trained to sponsor legislation in the parliament and monitor its implementation. In parliament, SOWPA members have the ability to raise questions and initiate debates issues that concern women and seek specific action from the government. Thus, the association will take the lead in educating and mobilizing Somali women and men to work for increased women's political participation. This project that will help bridge the gap between legislators and the public by facilitating different sectors of Somali society to engage in active exchanges. Like their male counterparts, women legislators have not been in close contact with their constituencies, including women. This project will help bridge this divide.

NAIROBI 00000374 012 OF 014

-- Project description: A key goal of this project is to create a comprehensive strategy to empower Somalia's women parliamentarians to achieve an increased women political participation in Somalia. In particular, the project will identify barriers and strategies to increase women's political participation, and bridge the gap between SOWPA members and the Somali public including civil society organizations, academics, and religious leaders, and identify potential allies in carrying out its mission.

Phase 1: Setting up the office - In the first month of the project

SOWPA will focus on recruiting support staff, to identify an office, and purchase the necessary equipment and basic office furniture. A company will also be identified to construct the website, which will be used for the purpose of the project and thereafter.

Phase 2: Public outreach - During this phase, SOWPA members will conduct six thematic workshops on the barriers of political participation to identify comprehensive strategies to tackle them. At the beginning of Phase 2, the Association will organize at least two radio programs to reach out to Somali public, informing them about SOWPA's goals and invite the public to engage contribute their perspectives. The website will continuously be used as a compliment to exchange with the public.

Phase 3: Public discussion on the draft strategy - During the third phase, the draft strategy document will be finalized and SOWPA will utilize the website to gather public feedback. This process will hopefully help verify the viability of the strategies and will give ownership to others. It will build a broader consensus on additional joint activities. The public feedback will inform the final changes in the strategy, which will be printed and posted on the website and disseminated to different stakeholders.

Phase 4: Public outreach through radio - After adoption of the final strategy, SOWPA members will use radio to inform the public about the process it intends to follow to promote women's political participation, and call for their support.

Thematic workshops - The Caucus will organize six thematic workshops with representatives from civil society organizations, academics, business owners, government officials (including Ministers, Members of Parliament, senior public officials), members of independent bodies (such as the Independent Constitutional Commission and Civil Service Commission), media representatives and journalists. Each workshop will last two days and will be designed to gain buy in on strategies to increase women's political participation. Since the workshops will be thematic, the participants will be predominantly from a group with common interests. The six workshops will be conducted in two locations: Mogadishu (4) and Galkayo (2).

The workshop participants will be carefully selected to represent all geographic areas of

Somalia. In each workshop, an average of 15 SOWPA members and 20 members representing other organizations will take part in each program. Guest speakers will also be invited.

Themes of the workshops will include:

- Political Barriers and Strategies for Women Participation: This

NAIROBI 00000374 013 OF 014

workshop will cover the actual political barriers in Somalia. It will also identify the strategies to help increase women political participation including passing legislation, constitutional provisions, civil service regulations, and working with independent bodies such as IFCC and the Civil Service Commission.

- Somali Culture, Religion and Women Participation: This workshop will identify cultural and religious barriers to women's participation. A special focus will be given to identifying areas where religion is misinterpreted and strategies to address these problems.

- Economic Empowerment and Women's Participation: Participants will address economic aspects of women's participation and strategies to increase economic development opportunities.

- Education and Women Participation: Participants will discuss problems that affect women's education and strategies to enhance formal and informal education. Awareness campaigns to help increasing women participation will also be discussed.

- Role of the Somali Women in the Peace and Reconciliation Process: To encourage proactive engagement in the peace and reconciliation initiatives. Women's successful engagement in the reconciliation process would challenge the existing cultural patterns and enable more successful collaboration among competing factions.

- Media and Women Participation: Participants will discuss the role the media can play in supporting the cause of increased women's participation and strategies in achieving that goal.

Project deliverables include:

- Construction of the Website. A website will be constructed to facilitate communication between the legislators and the Somali public. The strategy will be posted to the website to collect feedback from the general public and different organizations.

- Radio shows. SOWPA will organize radio shows to inform the public about its initiative and invite them to give their inputs on the problems and strategies regarding political participation of women. When the final version of the strategy document is adopted, another series of radio shows will be organized. The shows will inform the public about the strategies that SOWPA will adopt and call for support from the public.

SOWPA will hire an experienced team to help implement the project. A project manager and project advisor will focus on management and administrative responsibilities while helping to establish contacts with the individuals and organizations to participate in workshops and implement other project activities. The manager will draft written reports on project activities and expenditures. A project accountant will be hired to keep the accounts of the project and maintain financial documents and will ensure transparency.

-- Budget: The total budget for this nine month project is USD 55,000. Detailed budget figures are available for additional review.

-- Recipient Organization: The Somali Women Parliamentary Association (SOWPA) is the women's caucus of the Transitional Federal Parliament (TFP). SOWPA was founded by 23 women members of

NAIROBI 00000374 014 OF 014

the TFP on January 19, 2010. While it is a new organization,

SOWPA has a number of members who have extensive experience in managing and implementing projects with different non-governmental organizations.

SOWPA's vision is to promote peace and security; equal representation of women in all decision-making forums; and the full participation of women in all aspects of the social, political, economic and cultural life in Somalia. The mission of the Women's Caucus is to provide a forum for women legislators and their constituents to meet, discuss and share experiences to develop a united voice to achieve sustainable peace in Somalia. By acting as the voice for women in Somalia, advocating on their behalf, and through collaboration with others in and outside of Parliament, SOWPA ensures the development and empowerment of women in all aspects of life in Somalia, including security, education, politics, health, human rights, and social development.

RANNEBERGER